

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAM-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

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R 232213Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7166

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: USO IN PARIS

1. A DELEGATION OF SPANISH TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION
USO COMPOSED OF JOSE MARIA ZUFIAUZ, SECRETARY
GENERAL; PACO GIMENEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL;
AND RAYMOND CASTILLO, USO REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS,
VISITED PARIS 17-19 JANUARY AT THE INVITATION OF
CFDT. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE VISIT
SPECIFIES THAT THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS DISCUSSED
THE EVOLUTION OF THE OVERALL SITUATION IN SPAIN,
FOUND THEMSELVES IN AGREEMENT ON SEVERAL POINTS AND
COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO MAINTAINING CLOSE
CONTACT.

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2. ON 19 JANUARY USO AND CFDT HELD A JOINT PRESS

CONFERENCE WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS VERY POORLY ATTENDED.
THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS MADE BY ZUFIAUZ
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) USO HAS MADE ITS CHOICE REGARDING THE KIND
OF TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IT WANTS TO BE,
NAMELY AUTONOMOUS AND INDEPENDENT OF POLITICAL
PARTIES, AND ANTI-CAPITALIST ADVOCATING SOCIALISM
TO BE BASED ON WORKERS MANAGEMENT (AUTOGESTION).
BY MAKING THIS CHOICE USO SEEKS TO DIFFERENTIATE
ITSELF FROM THE LENINIST-TYPE OF TRADE UNIONS
WHICH ARE ARMS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AS IS THE CASE
WITH THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS IN SPAIN AND THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TYPE OF UNIONS WHICH MORE OFTEN
THAN NOT ACCOMMODATE THEMSELVES TO THE CAPITALIST
SYSTEM AND ARE SATISFIED WITH SUPERFICIAL REFORMS.

(B) WHILE AUTONOMOUS, USO INTENDS TO PLAY A POLITICAL
ROLE IN SPAIN BY TRYING TO DEVELOP THE POLITICAL
CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE WORKING CLASS SO THAT IT CAN
BECOME MORE MILITANT IN THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM.
FURTHERMORE, USO IS COMMITTED TO THE IDEA OF A
UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT IN SPAIN AND INTENDS TO MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO PROMOTE LABOR UNITY. IT REALIZES,
HOWEVER, THAT THE PROSPECT FOR SUCH UNITY IS NOT
TERRIBLY BRIGHT.

(C) USO IS REPRESENTED IN 30 PROVINCES IN SPAIN
AND HOPES TO INCREASE ITS STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE
BY WORKING WITHIN THE OFFICIAL TRADE UNION
ORGANIZATION JUST AS THE COMMUNIST WORKERS COMMISSIONS
HAVE BEEN DOING.

(D) ALTHOUGH UNLIKELY, ONE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE
POSSIBILITY OF NEW ELECTIONS TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE
OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TRADE UNION ORGANIZA-

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TION. THIS ORGANIZATION HAS BECOME A STATE
WITHIN A STATE AND IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DISMISS
IT AS A GOVERNMENT PUPPET WITHOUT ANY EXISTENCE
OF ITS OWN. ONE MUST REMEMBER THERE ARE NO LESS
THAN 15,000 TRADE UNION FUNCTIONARIES WHOSE
LIVELIHOOD AND CAREERS DEPEND UPON THE CONTINUING
EXISTENCE OF THE OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION. FURTHERMORE,
THERE IS AN ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT
HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS WHICH CANNOT BE DIS-
MANTLED OVERNIGHT AND WITHOUT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
EVEN FOR THE WORKERS.

3. IN A SIDE CONVERSATION WITH LABATT TOGETHER
WITH EDMOND MAIRE OF CFDT, ZUFIAUZ SAID THAT USO
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IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ETUC BUT
HE KNOWS THAT UGT WILL BLOCK USO'S APPLICATION.

4. JACQUES CHEREQUE, SEC GEN OF CFDT'S METAL-
WORKERS FEDERATION, WHO TOGETHER WITH MAIRE AND RENE
SALANNE (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS) TOOK PART IN PRESS
CONFERENCE, TOLD LABATT THAT HIS FEDERATION IS
PROVIDING TRAINING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO USO
WHICH IS MEMBER OF IMF (INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS
FEDERATION). HE ADDED THAT REBHAN, IMF SEC GEN, WAS
RECENTLY IN SPAIN AND PROMISED IMF ASSISTANCE TO

USO.

5. COMMENT: THE ONLY WORD WE CAN ADD TO THE FOREGOING WHICH MADRID IS IN A BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS IS THAT USO SOUNDS VERY MUCH LIKE CFDT IN TERMS OF MILITANT POLITICAL TRADE UNIONISM WITH DEFINITE ANTI-CAPITALIST IDEOLOGY AND A COMMITMENT TO WORKERS MANAGEMENT (AUTOGESTION). IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE USO LEADERS CAREFULLY ABSTAINED FROM ANY REFERENCE TO UGT WITH WHICH, AS EVERYONE KNOWS, USO IS COMPETING BITTERLY.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS02341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760027-0241
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760127/aaaaaxve.tel
Line Count: 181
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USO IN PARIS
TAGS: ELAB, FR, SP, USO, CFDT, (ZUFIAUZ, JOSE MARIA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006